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Distinguished Career as a Trouble Shooter

# Ransom Job Was Latest in M Tough Ones Handled by General Cla

By MARSHALL MCNEI . Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

Three times in months, when the Kehnedy brothers needed he p of a special sort, they have called on Gen. Lucius Dabignon Clay, no Harvard man but a true son of - Georgia.

Twice President John Kennedy has summoned Gen. Clay to share his bu First in the late sun mer of 1961 to be his pe sonal ambassador to troi bled Berlin, the city Ger Clay once helped save; see ond, early this month to heal a new full-time study of the controversial, expensive and unpopular foreign aid pro gram.

And within the week, Attorney General Robert Ken nedy has assigned to Gen Clay the job of raising a quick \$1.9 million from among his rich friends as part of the Bay of Pigs pris oners' ransom.

He has raised virtually all the \$1.9 million—the Attorney General himself having produced \$1 million by a single phone call to a friend; he helped quiet Berlin; but Gen. Clay's foreign aid study bus only just begun.

These assignments cap to the moment—the unique career of Gen. Clay, upon whom his government has heaped tough jobs and high hopors for a considerable part of his 65 years.

### PAGE BOY

Distant relative of the great Henry Clay, son of a U. S. Senator from Georgia, Lucius Clay did his first government chore as a Senate page boy.

From there he went to West Point, graduating with honors in 1918, climbing subsequently thru the peace years and two wars to full general, and then retiring to become a rich and successful homeroesens which he still the series of the businessman, which he still 

Gen. Clay is a director and chairman of the executive committee of Continental Can Co., of which he was until lately the \$150,000-a-year operating head.

He is also a member of General Motors' finance policy committee, and a director of Chase Manhattan Bank, Leliman Corp., U. S. Lines, Metropolitan Life and Amercan Express.

Thus he moves in circles where \$1.9 million isn't realy very big money.

#### INSTRUCTOR

But it wasn't always so.

He had work a day jobs with poor pay as an instruc-or at West Point, District army Engineer building rivarmy Engineer bunding average and harbor projects, and then head of the defense airport program as World War if threatened us,

The war having enguited us, Gen. Clay became a No. assistant to Gen. Brehon Some well, head of the Army ervice Forces.

Still later, James F. Byrnes, later Secretary of State, icalled on Gen. Clay for help in the Office of War Mobilizam and Reconversion.

There he was a sort of builter between the civilian and the military, a tough guy who was most influential in fixing stern home front policies so the men with the guns while have enough to fight

## POB FOR IKE

Then his friend Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower called him to straighten out supply bottlenecks in Europe. He

The war over, Gen. Clay became deputy military goverior of Germany, then com-mander of U. S. forces in Europe and military gover-no of the U. S. zone of Ger-

He had a primary role in the Berlin airlift that rescued the beleaguered city from communism's blockade.

which his firmness in dealing with the Reds earned him the unofficial title of "Hero Approved For Release" 2000/06/13 (1964)

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dress both House and Sen-

Ir the former, one of his old friends was the late Speaker Sam Rayburn (D. Tex.), in whose congressional district Gen. Clay supervised the building of an army dam.

"An old friend has come home from his labors which have been stupendous and grea," said sair. Sam as he introduced San May to the flouse. "I prejent to you a man of the many men I have seen who I think is as the army or out."

GEN. LUCIUS CLAY

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Tome and retired from the army in 1949.

TRIBUTE

Congress paid unique nonors to this slight graying man with the gulet voice three paid with the gulet voice three paid with the gulet voice three paid with Cen. Clay's belp. The paid with Cen. Clay'